



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
503D Military Police Battalion (Airborne)
Camp Liberty, Iraq 09342

AFZA-AP-BN

27 March 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Historical summary on 20MAR05 Ambush on ASR Detroit.

1. The following is a historical summary of the events that occurred on 20MAR05, in the vicinity of Salman Pak, along ASR Detroit at grid MB 73586 62500. Information cited in this memorandum was collected through interviews with the Raven 42 and Stallion 33 soldiers, along with CO/BN spot reports, evidence from the scene, and through questioning of the detained AIF.

a. I have divided the ambush into three phases: PHASE I details the ambush from the beginning of the fight to the point when SGT Rivera and SPC Mack are wounded. PHASE II details the Stallion elements arriving to assist the Raven squad, extracting the wounded Raven soldiers, and establishing an LZ. PHASE III concludes the ambush when additional Raven elements arrive on scene to do the final sweep of the area.

2. On 20 March 2005, 3/3/B1-623 FA BTY (call sign Stallion 33) was conducting a convoy security mission consisting of (30) third country national (TCN) vehicles from LSA Anaconda, south to CSC Scania along ASR Detroit. The Stallion 33 security squad consisted of (3) M1114's. Stallion 33A (S33A) included; SGT Baker (TC), SPC Young (driver), and SPC Malone (gunner), with a MK-19. Stallion 33B (S33B) included; SFC Hammons (SL), SPC Vogel (driver), and SPC Saylor (gunner), with a M2. Stallion 33C (S33C) included; SGT Burke (TC), SGT Simpson (driver), and SPC Gregory (gunner), with a M2. Order of march was S33A, S33B, and S33C. S33A was the lead vehicle in the convoy, S33B was the sixteenth vehicle, and S33C was the trail vehicle in the convoy (see enclosure A, slide 1).

a. Trailing 200-300 meters behind the Stallion 33's escort mission was a MSR patrol from 2/4/617th MP CO (call sign Raven 42). The Raven element consisted of (3) M1114's. Raven 42A (R42A) included SGT Rivera (TC), SPC Mack (driver), SPC Haynes (gunner) with a M2 and SPC Mike (medic). Raven 42B (R42B) included SGT Hester (TC), SPC Pullen (driver) and SPC Ordunez (gunner) with a MK-19 and M240B. Raven 42C included SSG Nein (SL), SGT Morris (driver), and SPC Cooper (gunner) with a M2. Order of march was R42C, R42B, and R42A (see enclosure A, slide 1).

AFZA-AP-BCO

SUBJECT: Historical summary on 20MAR05 Ambush on ASR Detroit.

3. **PHASE I.** At approximately 1140hrs (local), 40-50 anti-Iraqi forces (AIF) fired small arms and RPGs at the lead vehicles of Stallion 33's southbound convoy from a field southwest of their location (see enclosure A, slide 9), immediately disabling a semi tractor trailer in the front portion of the convoy. Moments later a northbound US convoy from the 1075th Trans CO was hit with small arms and RPG fire from a field southwest of their location (see enclosure A, slide 9) immediately disabling a US vehicle (UNK type). S33A sped through the kill zone taking heavy small arms/RPG fire from fields A and B (see enclosure A, slide 9). S33C and S33B were located in the middle and rear portions of the convoy at a halt taking heavy AIF fire from the southwest side of the road, while S33B called for air support on the Sheriff frequency.

a. The R42 element moved from the rear of the convoy passing both S33C and S33B in the shoulder of the south bound lane, headed for the AIF location. The R42 element maneuvered between the convoy and AIF (according to SOP), receiving heavy fire from field A and returning suppressive fire with their M2s and MK-19. SSG Nein ordered his squad to make a right hand turn on a back road that runs perpendicular to the ASR (see enclosure A, slide 9). Once his lead vehicle (R42C) made this turn, R42C was hit with a RPG, temporarily knocking the gunner (SPC Cooper) unconscious. R42C continued to drive down this back road until all the Raven elements had made the same turn. R42C stopped at the end of the tree line that ran perpendicular to the ASR (see enclosure A, slide 9) and adjacent to a two story local national (LN) building (see enclosure A, slide 5). R42B stopped 10-15 meters behind R42C and R42A stopped at the end of an irrigation ditch that ran parallel to the ASR (see enclosure A, slide 9), approximately 100-150 meters away from R42B.

b. Once the Raven elements had flanked the AIF on the back road. The TCs and drivers of R42C and R42B (SSG Nein, SGT Hester, SGT Morris, and SPC Pullen) dismounted and took up firing positions along a berm in front of the tree line (see enclosure A, slide 3). The TC, driver, and medic of R42A (SGT Rivera, SPC Mack and SPC Mike) dismounted and moved to what they believed to be the non-contact side of their truck and fired into the irrigation ditches that ran parallel to the ASR (see enclosure A, slide 2 and 9). SPC Mike quickly fired all his 9mm rounds and grabbed SPC Mack's M-4 while SPC Mack fired SPC Haynes' SAW. Shortly after they dismounted SPC Mack was hit with a shot to his arm. SPC Mike pulled SPC Mack to a covered position halfway under his vehicle and continued to fire his M-4 on AIF. Moments later SGT Rivera was shot in the lower back. SPC Mike realized then that they were taking fire from the rear because both SPC Mack and SGT Rivera were behind the cover of their vehicle when they were shot. SPC Mike pulled SGT Rivera to a covered position under his vehicle and began lay suppressive fire to his rear with an M-4. As SPC Mike was firing to his rear, SPC Haynes was hit. As SPC Haynes bandaged his own wounds, SPC Mike grabbed the

AFZA-AP-BCO

SUBJECT: Historical summary on 20MAR05 Ambush on ASR Detroit.

SAW and provided suppressive fire into the irrigation ditch that ran parallel to the ASR. Once SPC Haynes was able to re-man his weapon, SPC Mike contacted another Raven element for assistance, all while his gunner (SPC Haynes) was laying suppressive .50 cal fire into the irrigation ditch with a wounded hand of his own.

c. The gunners of R42C and R42B focused their fire on the orchard farm and on the tree line until they realized small arms fire was coming from a building and berm behind them (see enclosure A, slide 9). SSG Nein eliminated (1) AIF on the berm with a hand grenade, and the gunners of R42C and R42B momentarily suppressed the building with MK-19 rounds and (1) AT-4 round (fired by SPC Cooper). The gunners re-focused their fire on field A, to include shooting all (7) AIF vehicles that were parked on this same road (see enclosure A, slide 3). SSG Nein and SGT Hester jumped into the irrigation ditch that ran perpendicular to the ASR to clear it of AIF while SGT Morris provided over watch from the tree line. SPC Pullen received word from SPC Mike on the handheld radio that they had wounded and needed assistance. SPC Pullen then drove R42B back to R42A's position, with R42B's gunner (SPC Ordunez) providing over watch and suppressive fire on field A. Realizing that there was wounded and seeing SPC Pullen drive R42B to R42A, SPC Cooper climbed down from his turret and drove R42C closer to the other Raven trucks, in order to provide better covering fire.

4. **PHASE II.** During the Raven engagement; the Stallion 33B and 33C elements moved toward the Ravens' position (at the intersection of ASR Detroit and the perpendicular side road) to assist while still taking heavy fire. S33A returned back into the kill zone, providing suppressive MK-19 fire on field B. S33C arrived to the Raven site first. When they arrived on the scene they noticed some wounded Raven soldiers under intense fire. S33C positioned their vehicle to better cover the wounded. The TC and driver of S33C (SGT Burke and SGT Simpson) dismounted to provide medical assistance and covering fire. Once S33C arrived on scene, they again received small arms fire from the building to their rear (see enclosure A, slide 5). SPC Mike suppressed the fire by firing (1) AT-4 round into the building eliminating the threat. Shortly after this, S33B arrived on scene providing suppressive .50 cal fire into the irrigation ditch that ran parallel to the ASR (see enclosure A, slide 10). The driver and TC of S33B (SFC Hammons and SPC Vogal) dismounted and assisted in loading SPC Mack into their vehicle (S33B) for extraction. As S33B began to evacuate SPC Mack, S33A arrived on scene. SFC Hammons ordered S33A (SGT Baker) to call a MEDEVAC and set up an LZ. Both S33A and S33B received heavy fire from both field A and B while en route to the potential LZ (see enclosure A, slide 10). S33B provided suppressive fire onto field A while S33A returned fire on field B with MK-19 and SAW rounds.

a. After S33B left the Raven site an UNK US vehicle (possibly 1075th gun truck) arrived and provided suppressive fire into the irrigation ditch that ran parallel to the ASR (see enclosure A, slide 10). An UNK US soldier (thin, African-American male, with a green

AFZA-AP-BCO

SUBJECT: Historical summary on 20MAR05 Ambush on ASR Detroit.

IBA) assisted SPC Pullen in providing first aid to SGT Rivera. Shortly after this, SPC Haynes noticed SSG Nein and SGT Hester moving in the irrigation ditch and getting closer to R42A's position. SPC Haynes informed SPC Mike who then called a "cease fire". SSG Nein and SGT Hester moved to their position to assess the situation. SPC Mike told SSG Nein that he and SPC Pullen were going to take the wounded to the LZ. The UNK US soldier and SPC Pullen, loaded SGT Rivera into S33C (with SPC Gregory still in the turret) and drove to the LZ (the UNK soldier drove while SPC Pullen provided first aid to SGT Rivera). SPC Mike drove R42A with the injured SPC Haynes in the turret, to the Stallion LZ. SSG Nein ordered all remaining Raven soldiers to clear the field for AIF, while he and SGT Burke (S33C) cleared the irrigation ditch that ran parallel to the ASR. SGT Simpson (S33C) provided over watch from the turret of R42B.

b. S33A secured an LZ 600-1000 meters south along the ASR (see enclosure A, slide 11). S33A (SGT Baker) radioed for a MEDEVAC at approximately 1202hrs and prepared for the casualties. S33B was first to arrive at the LZ with a casualty (SPC Mack). SGT Baker and SPC Young helped unload SPC Mack and began to provide first aid. Once SPC Mack was unloaded, S33B returned to the Raven site (the intersection of the ASR and the side road). Shortly after S33B left, S33C and R42A arrived. SGT Rivera and SPC Haynes were unloaded and given first aid by SPC Mike and SGT Baker. SPC Young jumped into the turret of R42A to provide security. At approximately 1216 the first MEDEVAC helicopter arrived. SGT Rivera, SPC Haynes, and SPC Mack were loaded on to this aircraft.

c. As S33B was driving back north along the ASR en route to the remaining Raven squad, they received heavy fire from field B. Once S33B returned to the Raven site (the intersection of the ASR and the side road) most of the firing had died down. S33B loaded another UNK USWIA (possibly 1075th) into their vehicle that had shrapnel wounds to the abdomen and moved him to the LZ. S33B arrived just as the first MEDEVAC was leaving. SGT Baker and SPC Mike treated the UNK US WIA and S33B returned back to the Raven site. While returning to the Raven site, S33B was flagged down by some 1075th Trans CO soldiers who requested S33B's help in extracting one of their US WIA. S33B brought the UNK US WIA to the LZ, where he was treated and MEDEVAC'd with the rest of the US WIAs. (5) US WIAs were MEDEVAC'd from the S33A LZ. Once all the casualties had left, S33B, S33C, and R42A drove back to the Raven site in a wedge formation. Once they arrived on scene all the fighting was over and additional Raven elements to include the Company Commander (CPT Lindner) arrived on scene.

5. PHASE III. Once CPT Lindner arrived on scene, he took command of the situation. S33C elements that were assisting in the searching of wounded AIF were relieved by Raven forces, so Stallion could continue their original mission of escorting the convoy to CSC Scania. Raven forces searched all the dead and wounded AIF and collected their weapons, ammunition, and personal items. They searched field A, field B, and every

AFZA-AP-BCO

SUBJECT: Historical summary on 20MAR05 Ambush on ASR Detroit.

building in the immediate area. All the dead AIF were found in field A. However, Raven forces found a large amount of expended rounds in field B. The rounds were found in (3) buildings and throughout a ditch in field B (see enclosure A, slide 12). S33A and S33B remembered seeing approximately 5-10 AIF in field B, along with (3) AIF vehicles. Through THT questioning, detainees told Raven forces that there were 40-50 AIF in the area with (10) vehicles. Some of the AIF had handcuffs on them, presumably to use in 5 kidnapping any personnel from the attack. The wounded AIF and TCNs were treated on site and MEDEVAC'd from a second LZ on the orchard farm (see enclosure A, slide 12).

a. During the Raven sweeps, Stallion 33 elements reorganized and prepared to take the convoy south to CSC Scania. They repaired their vehicles and were given a small ammo re-supply by Raven elements. Stallion 33 incorporated their convoy into another southbound convoy (UNK unit, call sign Dragon 47) and arrived at CSC Scania with out further incident.

b. Final numbers: (26) AIF KIA, (3) TCN KIA, (3) 617th WIA, (3) 1075th WIA, (6) AIF WIA, and (7) TCN WIA. Total amount of weapons confiscated: (22) AK-Ms, (13) RPKs, (6) RPG launchers, (16) RPG rockets, (39) hand grenades, (123) AK-M full magazines, (52) AK-M empty magazine, (1) full 200 round drum, and (2,500) loose 7.62 rounds. All weapons were signed over to the 7678th EOD. Also taken from the AIF was a video camera with footage of the ambush, along with cell phones, wallets, pictures and 200 US dollars, which were all turned over to the 18th MP BDE S2 (MAJ Lewis).

6. Point of Contact for this memorandum is the undersigned at VIOP 302-242-4440.

ERIC S. MINOR
CPT, MP
Reviewing Officer

Enclosures:

A- PPT slides on Ambush site

B- Estimated timeline